

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN  
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 12, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2800, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CHILD  
CARE LICENSING**

Hearing: Monday, March 12, 2012; 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 2800, S.D. 1 is to add exemptions for any kindergarten, school, or program licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, or any federal agency from child care licensing by the Department of Human Services.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this Administration bill. Kindergartens, schools, or child care programs to be exempted are already licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, or federal agencies which administer them. There is no reason for the Department to also license these already-licensed kindergartens, schools and child care programs.

The DHS has agreed to work the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools and the Hawaii Council of Private Schools to provide technical assistance to develop

standards for their child care programs. The Department will continue to work with exempt programs to increase the quality of their care settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



March 12, 2012 – 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

RE: SB 2800 SD1 – RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CHILD CARE  
LICENSING.

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan and Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Witt, executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**HAIS is in strong support of this Administration measure.** SB 2800 SD1 adds exemptions for any kindergarten, school, or program licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools (HCPS), or any federal agency from child care licensing by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The private school community, including schools whose programs are licensed by DHS, has the capacity to self-govern; the evidence for this is the successful self-regulating system we have had in place at HAIS and HCPS since 1996 when the Legislature de-regulated private schools from Department of Education supervision and asked HAIS to set up a self-governing system that replicated or improved upon the long-standing DOE private school licensing program. Since that time, HCPS, an affiliate of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, has reliably licensed about 100 private schools.

The licensing provided by DHS to our private school community has three dimensions: 1) early education programs for children under five (5) years of age; 2) summer fun programs that are not educational summer school programs; and 3) before and after school programs. Of the three, the early education programs are most prominent, and the primary focus of the existing licensing program is

the health and safety and well-being of young children. Should HAIS and HCPS become responsible for licensing of these programs, the existing elementary and secondary licensing program would require some modification to reflect the rigorous standards expected of schools with responsibility for young children.

Our position is that our association has the capacity for this given some assessment and examination of needs. Our member schools would be obliged to reimburse our association for the additional costs involved. Given these realities, we are here today to share our belief that this measure is aligned with the best interests and values of independent schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support SB 2800 SD1.